

## Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00  
TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 ABF-01 /052 W  
-----058993 092216Z /70/44  
O R 091719Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3085  
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 7372

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLED IN PARA ONE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR CO PORS  
SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF JUDICIAL POLICE

REF: A BOGOTA 6760, B STATE 182622

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GOC HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION DIRECTED TOWARD GIVING ALL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AUTHORITY TO NEW JUDICIAL POLICE DIRECTLY UNDER AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL. MOVE APPARENTLY HAS SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND AG PREDICTS SPEEDY PASSAGE AND IMPLEMENTATION. AL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS WOULD COME UNDER NEW ENTITY. PREVIOUS EFFORTS TOWARD SIMILAR REORGANIZATION FAILED AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF LOPEZ SUPPORT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION. MISSION IS CONVINCED THAT IN LONG RUN REORGANIZATION WOULD BE GIGANTIC STEP FORWARD. IN SHORT TERM, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE CONFUSION AND PROBABLY HIATUS IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NON-EXPENDABLE COMMODITIES IN PIPELINE SHOULD BE HELD UP PENDING CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION, BUT THAT DELIVERY OF HELICOPTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IS POLITICAL NECESSITY. END SUMMARY.

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2. GOC ON AUGUST 2 INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO REFORM JUDICIAL POLICE (JP). ACTUAL REFORM WOULD THEN BE CARRIED OUT BY SERIES OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREES. IMPLEMENTATION PLANS CALL FOR CREATION OF NEW JP DIRECTLY UNDER AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG). JP PERSONNEL ARE CURRENTLY DIVIDED AMONG F-2, DAS, CUSTOMS, AND AG. REFORM APPARENTLY HAS FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ (REF. A), AND ACCORDING

TO AG JAIME SERRANO RUEDO, CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE WILL TAKE PLACE IN EARLY AUGUST. NEW LAW WOULD BE PROMULGATED WITHIN TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTHS THEREAFTER. ACTUAL CREATION OF NEW JP ACCORDING TO ESTIMATE BY SERRANO WOULD "AT BEST" TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 1, 1978 AND "AT WORST" BY AUGUST 1978.

3. SERRANO TOLD MISSION OFFICERS THAT UNDER PROPOSED REFORM ALL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING ALL REPEAT ALL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS WILL BE ASSUMED BY NEW JP. "POLITICAL CRIMES", E.G. SUBVERSION AND REBELLION, AS WELL AS SUCH MATTERS AS IMMIGRATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH WOULD REMAIN OUTSIDE JP FUNCTIONS. F-2 WOULD IN EFFECT BE DISMANTLED, WITH NATIONAL POLICE REDUCED TO PUBLIC ORDER FUNCTION. ALL EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS BUT RELATING TO FUNCTIONS OF NEW JP IS TO BE TURNED OVER TO JP. BOTH EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL OF INSTITUTE OF LEGAL MEDICINE ARE TO BE ABSORBED BY JP, BUT ONLY SELECTED PERSONNEL FROM OTHER EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE TAKEN DIRECTLY INTO JP ON VOLUNTARY BASIS. REASON FOR LATTER IS TWO-FOLD: PERSONNEL MAY BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE CHANGE FOR RETIREMENT PURPOSES, AND AG WISHES TO SUBSTANTIALLY UPGRADE QUALITY AND EDUCATION OF MEMBERS OF NEW ORGANIZATION.

4. FREQUENTLY MENTIONED MODEL FOR NEW JP IS FBI. CONCEPT IS FOR SMALL, MOBILE, HIGHLY TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED, ELITE FORCE UNDER LAWYER SUPERVISION. GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE BOGOTA SPECIAL REGIONAL OFFICE WITH SEVEN OTHER REGIONAL OFFICES, ELEVEN SECTIONAL OFFICES AND 24 SUB-SECTIONAL OFFICES TO COVER WHOLE COUNTRY. EXTENSIVE FUNCTIONAL DIVISIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED. AG SERRANO SAID HE HAD ASKED FOR AND WAS ASSURED OF RECEIVING 500 MILLION PESOS (APPROXIMATELY \$14 MILLION) FOR FIRST YEAR SETTING-UP AND OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.

5. BEGIN COMMENT. DESPITE SERRANO'S ESTIMATE OF SIMPLICITY AND SPEED WITH WHICH REORGANIZATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED, THERE ARE OPPOSITION AND PROBLEMS. PRESIDENT LOPEZ HAS NOTED THAT DISMANTLING F-2 WOULD BE HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND LIKELY TO BE UNPOPULAR WITH COLOMBIAN MILITARY COMMAND WHICH HAS NATIONAL POLICE UNDER ITS AUTHORITY (REF. A). F-2 COURCES CHARACTERIZE PRESENT REORGANIZATION SCHEME AS ANOTHER FACET OF SEVEN-YEAR, UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO DISBAND THEIR ENTITY, AND EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THEY WILL REMAIN IN BUSINESS. PRESENT APPARENT COMMITMENT OF LOPEZ GOVERNMENT IN REORGANIZING JP COULD POSSIBLY CHANGE BALANCE OF FORCES THAT LED TO PREVIOUS STALEMATE, BUT THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. IT WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS POINT TO COMMIT OUR OWN NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TOO SOLIDLY TO EITHER REORGANIZATION OR STATUS QUO. IN MEANTIME, MISSION SUBMITS

FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SITUATION SHOULD NEW JP BECOME REALITY  
AND ON U.S. POLICY IN MEANTIME.

6. IN LONG RUN, MISSION IS CONVINCED THAT REORGANIZATION  
WHICH PUTS ALL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS UNDER ONE HEAD  
WOULD BE IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. CONFUSION AND INEFFICIENCY  
OF UNCOORDINATED PARALLEL AND COMPETING ORGANIZATIONS  
HAS BEEN A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR MISSION IN PAST.

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3086

INFO DEA HWS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 7372

7. IN SHORT RUN, HOWEVER, REORGANIZATION POSES MULTIPLE  
QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS. PRELIMINARY PLANS SHOWN BY AG SERRANO  
TO MISSION OFFICERS WERE IMPRESSIVE IN CONCEPT AND SCOPE.  
HOWEVER, ACTUAL GOC PLANNING OF REORGANIZATION HAS BEEN GOING  
ON ONLY SINCE MID-JULY ON CRASH BASIS. THERE CAN BE LITTLE  
DEPTH TO THE PLANNING AND IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT BASIC PROBLEMS  
OR REORGANIZATION ON THIS SCALE INVOLVING INITIAL PROBLEMS  
OF LOGISTICS AND OAN ORDERLY TRANSITION HAVE BEEN FACED.

8. THERE MAY WELL BE A HIATUS IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM BEFORE  
MATTERS SHAKE THEMSELVES DOWN. ORGANIZATION CHART DRAWN UP BY  
AG CALLS FOR SPECIALIZED NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT BUT IN  
CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICERS, SERRANO AHD HIS  
AIDES EMPHASIZED INDIVISIBILITY OF ANTI-CRIME EFFORT WHILE  
DOWN-PLAYING SPECIALIZATION. IT IS ALSO QUESTIONABLE TO  
WHAT EXTENT -- FOR REASONS MENTIONED ABOVE -- EXPERIENCED  
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WOULD CHOOSE OR BE PERMITTED  
TO JOIN NEW JP.

9. NARCOTICS COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WILL POSE SPECIAL

PROBLEMS. UNDER GUIDELINES PRESENTED BY AG, COMMODITIES  
ALREADY PROVIDE TO EXISTING NARCOTICS ENTITIES WOULD DEVOLVE  
ON JP AUTOMATICALLY. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, PARENT ORGANIZATIONS  
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WOULD PROBABLY BE LOATH TO SURRENDER EQUIPMENT. MISSION  
BELIEVES THAT TO EXTENT PHYSICALLY AND POLITICALLY POSSIBLE,  
NON-EXPENDABLE COMMODITIES IN PIPELINE SHOULD BE HELD PENDING  
CLARIFICATION OF SITUATION. THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO HIATUS,  
BUT RESERVE OF FUNDS AND COMMODITIES WILL AFFORD MISSION  
LEVERAGE IN CONCENTRATING AG'S ATTENTION ON NARCOTICS  
ENFORCEMENT AND GIVING NARCOTICS UNIT ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY  
AND RECOGNITION AS DISTINCT, SPECIALIZED UNIT.

10. HELICOPTERS FOR AIR UNIT POSE SPECIAL PROBLEM. FOR  
POLITICAL REASONS IT IS NOT FEASIBLE THAT DELIVERY BE  
DELAYED UNTIL JP BECOMES A REALITY. PROAG CALLS FOR  
HELICOPTERS T BE SIGNED OVER TO NATIONAL POLICE AND THEN  
TO BE OPERATED UNDER NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS  
(NCDD), LATTER WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY WITHER AWAY TO BE  
REPLACED BY A NATIONAL COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL POLICY AND THE  
PREVENTION OF CRIME DIRECTLY UNDER AG. BECAUSE OF HIGH  
VISIBILITY OF HELICOPTERS AND PRESIDENT LOPEZ' PERSONAL  
INTEREST IN THEIR DELIVERY FOR USE IN NARCOTICS, MISSION  
BELIEVES RETENTION IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND EVENTUAL TRANSFER  
TO JP WILL NOT POSE MAJOR PROBLEM. MISSION WILL SEEK TO FIND  
AND FORMULATE ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO PRECLUDE ANY DIFFICULTIES.

11. MISSION WILL RESPOND IN MORE DETAIL TO QUESTIONS RAISED  
IN PARA 4 REF B IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.  
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## Message Attributes

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